

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 01301 251229Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 806

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1301

EA ONLY FOR HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN

1. REFERRING BACK TO OUR CONVERSATION IN MANILA ON POSSIBLE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES, I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING.

2. ON THE BASIS OF MY CONVERSATIONS AND THOSE OF OTHERS TO DATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING AS REALISTIC GOALS FOR OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS: (A) A RESOLUTION OF THE AQUINO CASE INVOLVING EITHER HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES OR HIS RETURN TO PROFESSIONAL OR POLITICAL LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES; (B) THE LIFTING OF CHARGES AGAINST PRIESTS AND NUNS WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED BUT NEITHER TRIED NOR IMPRISONED; (C) THE RELEASE OR FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL OF DETAINEES CURRENTLY BEING HELD FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES UNDER MARTIAL LAW; (D) THE LIFTING OR AT LEAST THE LESSENING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS; (E) ELECTIONS, WITH ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR OPPOSITION CANDIDATES FOR AN INTERIM LEGISLATURE; (F) A RETURN VISIT, FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS.

3. THE PARTIAL OR TOTAL LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW SHOULD ALSO BE LISTED AS AN OBJECTIVE ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT ONE

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THAT CAN BE REALIZED WITHIN THE SIX MONTH PERIOD.

4. IF THE FOREGOING WERE LISTED IN INSTRUCTIONS TO ME BY THE SECRETARY, I WOULD HOPE THAT PROGRESS IN (A), (B), AND (C) WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A RECONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR CURRENT ACTIONS AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

NEWSOM

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